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**REMARKS**

By the present Preliminary Amendment, all multiple dependency has been eliminated from the original claims and new dependent claims 15-40 have been added so that the scope of the original multiple dependent claims has been preserved. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability.

Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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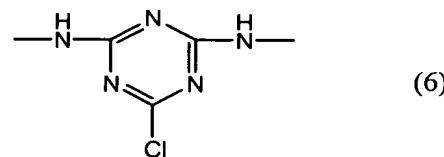
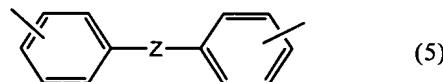
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**Marked-up Copy**

3. (Amended) The aqueous ink for ink jet recording according to claim [1 or] 2, wherein in the formula (A), X is an optionally substituted phenylene group.

4. (Amended) The aqueous ink for ink jet recording according to [any one of claims 1 to] claim 3, wherein in the formula (A), A is a naphthyl group (the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group).

10. (Amended) The process for producing the dye according to [any one of claims 7 to] claim 9, wherein in the formula (C), X is an alkylene group, a phenylene group, a xylylene group, a naphthylene group, a biphenylene group or a divalent bonding group represented by the formula (5)



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**Marked-up Claims 3, 4, 10-14**

in which Z represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, -CO-, -NHCONH-, -NHCSNH-, -CH=CH- or the formula (6) (these bonding groups may be substituted with a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group).

11. (Amended) The process for producing the dye according to [any one of claims 7 to] claim 9, wherein in the formula (C), X is an optionally substituted phenylene group.

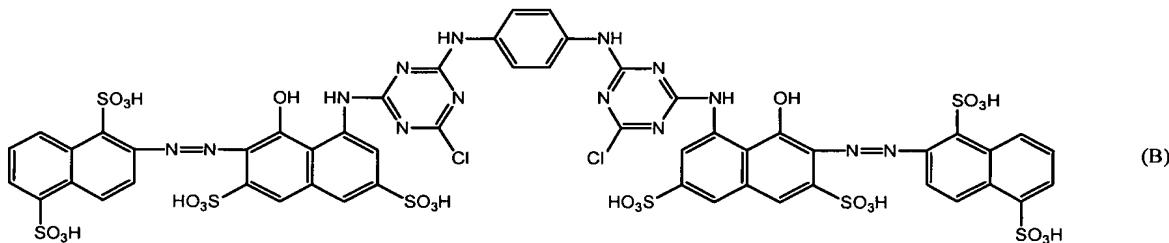
12. (Amended) The process for producing the dye according to [any one of claims 7 to] claim 9, wherein in the formula (C), A is a naphthyl group (the naphthyl group may be substituted with any of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid ester group, a carboxylic acid amide group, a sulfonic acid group and a sulfonic acid amide group).

13. (Amended) The process for producing the dye according to [any one of claims 7 to] claim 9, wherein the dye is a dye represented by the formula (B)

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**Marked-up Claims 3, 4, 10-14**



or its salt.

14. (Amended) Aqueous ink for ink jet recording characterized by containing at least one of the dyes produced by the process according to [any one of claims 7 to] claim 13.